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1980 UNITED NATIONS PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 6 November 1980 at 10.15 a.m.

Temporary President: Mr. WALDHEIM (Secretary-General of the United Nations)

President: Mr. MUÑOZ LEDO (Mexico)

later: Mr. SARRE (Senegal)

CONTENTS

Opening of the Conference

Election of officers

(a) President
(b) Vice-Presidents

Statements regarding pledges

(a) Oral statements

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

1. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT said that the 1980 United Nations Pledging Conference was taking place at a particularly opportune time, as the General Assembly was expected to adopt at its current session a new International Development Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. A number of Programmes and Funds falling within the purview of the Conference were adopting far-reaching measures to enable the United Nations system to respond more effectively to the many needs of developing countries in the 1980s. Many policy issues pertaining to the operational activities of the system were coming under the General Assembly's comprehensive review. A particular feature of that review was the concern expressed by a number of Governments about the adequacy of resources for such activities.

2. The Conference, therefore, offered another opportunity for Governments to demonstrate their commitment to continue to provide, on a voluntary basis, resources for the many Programmes and Funds of the United Nations. He was, of course, aware of the recent virtual stagnation, in real terms, in official development assistance (ODA) and of the difficulties which many Governments faced in seeking to increase or even maintain appropriations for it. However, there could be little disagreement over the fact that the provision of an adequate flow of resources on an increasingly assured, continuous and predictable basis constituted an indispensable element of the international community's support for the efforts of developing countries to better their social and economic life. He trusted that the Governments of developed countries would make their best efforts to achieve a rapid and substantial increase in ODA so as to reach and, where possible, surpass the agreed international target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP).

3. There was no need to emphasize the very serious situation facing all developing countries, particularly the least developed ones and those whose development needs and problems were greatest. Additional resources to support their efforts were urgently required. Over the last three decades, the United Nations system had developed an efficient institutional capacity for providing multilateral technical co-operation and other forms of assistance to developing countries on a grant basis, funded by voluntary ODA contributions. Stagnation or uncertainty in those contributions could be most harmful to the cause of economic and social development.

4. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was the largest undertaking in the world for the provision of multilateral technical co-operation. In 1979, UNDP's field expenditures had been more than 25 per cent higher than in the previous year and they were expected to register a similar increase in 1980. Perhaps the most significant indication of the emerging role of UNDP was the way in which it had reoriented its efforts to give greater attention to the needs of

(The Temporary President)

the least developed and other low-income developing countries. A major step in that direction had been taken with the establishment of the pattern of resource allocation for the 1982-1986 planning cycle. Whereas some 64 per cent of UNDP's work was currently carried on in developing countries with a per capita GNP of less than $500, those countries would before long be receiving close to 80 per cent of UNDP's resources.

5. UNDP's funding needs required an average annual growth in voluntary contributions of 14 per cent. That requirement was modest in view of the prevailing rates of inflation.

6. The contributions of participants could help to ensure that the UNDP plan for 1977-1981 could be carried out in full and a sound basis provided for meeting the new challenges and opportunities of 1982 and succeeding years of the 1982-1986 planning cycle.

7. In recent years, UNDP had also been successfully administering several United Nations trust funds which sought to respond to one or another imperative of development.

8. The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) served to channel small amounts of capital for self-help investment activities specifically to the poorest communities in the poorest countries. The Fund was preparing to double its operations, and he had great confidence that it would attract increased contributions well beyond the $27 million pledged the previous year.

9. A much younger fund, operational since May, was the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development. The substantial demands of developing countries on that Fund required contributions well in excess of the amount pledged to it so far, which was considerably below the initial financing goal of $250 million. He understood that a number of Governments were undertaking a high-level initiative to secure a substantial volume of new resources for the Fund.

10. The United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) had 100 ongoing projects under its multisectoral programme for rehabilitation and development in the eight drought-stricken countries of the Sahel. In addition to its original objectives, UNSO had initiatied activities in connexion with its new responsibility of assisting, on behalf of UNEP, the anti-desertification efforts of 15 countries in the affected areas of Africa. The total cost of some 107 priority desertification control projects that had been planned was far in excess of the amounts pledged to date.

11. There were other smaller UNDP-administered funds, such as the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries and the Special Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Volunteers programme, which also needed increased contributions. Moreover, the Conference would wish to take note of the recent initiative of the UNDP Governing Council in proposing the establishment of a special energy account.

(The Temporary President)

12. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) was currently engaged in three distinct yet interrelated missions of critical importance to children, the world's most valuable yet vulnerable resource. UNICEF continued its original mission of emergency relief and rehabilitation in the aftermath of disaster, as exemplified by its responsibility as the lead agency of the United Nations system for relief currently being provided to the Kampuchean people and its providing emergency assistance for children elsewhere. But its larger, ongoing mission was to respond to the silent emergency which daily afflicted hundreds of millions of children as a consequence of extreme poverty. In pursuance of the mandate given it by the General Assembly, UNICEF served as the lead agency for following up on the developmental aspects flowing from the International Year of the Child.

13. For 1981, the UNICEF Executive Board had authorized programmes totalling $235 million, not including the Kampuchean operation. While that was an increase of $30 million over 1980, in real value terms it represented only a very small addition at a time of growing need. It was imperative to enable UNICEF to enhance its leadership role in assisting countries to improve the conditions and prospects of their children.

14. The United Nations Industrial Development Fund (UNIDF) was intended to increase the ability of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to respond promptly and flexibly to the needs of the developing countries by supplementing the resources of UNDP in fostering their accelerated and self-sustained growth in the industrial field. It required an annual funding level of $50 million, which entailed a greater inflow of resources than it currently received.

15. The Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women supported activities geared specifically to helping rural women and poor women in urban areas to make their maximum contribution to national development. There was an urgent need to increase its resources. The Fund's projected requirements were $6 million for 1981 and $10 million annually thereafter.

16. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) offered new approaches for the full integration of women in development. It had already produced several publications and initiated the exchange of scholars. Its activities of research, training and information for women needed to be sustained by contributions from the international community.

17. There was a gap of approximately $8 million between the resources available to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (UNHHSF) and the requirements of the 1980-1981 work programme, which had been approved by the Commission on Human Settlements and was focused on improving living conditions in both urban and rural settlements throughout the world, with particular emphasis on the needs of the poorest segments of the population. He was confident that the pledges made at the Conference would enable the Foundation to implement its ongoing work programme.

(The Temporary President)

18. The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) had financed projects in 131 countries and territories. It was his hope that all countries would announce substantial increases in their pledges to the Fund in order to permit it to reach its 1981 target of $159 million and meet the expectations of developing countries in their population projects and programmes.

19. Finally, the years 1978-1988 had been proclaimed as the Transport and Communications Decade for Africa. More than any other continent, Africa depended for its development upon the facilitation of transport and communications and the elimination of trade barriers among its countries. The entire United Nations system was devoting its energies to carrying out the approved programme for the Decade; the first phase of which, covering the years 1980-1983, was estimated to cost approximately $9 billion. To date, funding of the order of $2.4 billion had been made available for 100 projects. Nevertheless, difficulties were being encountered in the implementation of regional and subregional projects, and specific studies which would pave the way for the execution of the second phase of the programme. The cost of the studies, which the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was well placed to execute, was estimated at $750 million. The provision of the necessary resources would enhance the effectiveness of ECA in the implementation of the Programme for the Decade. It was necessary for donor countries to bear those considerations in mind as they sought the best means of ensuring the success of the Decade, which was eagerly expected by African countries in view of commitments previously made by the international community.

20. He was confident that the results of the Conference would once again fully reflect the spirit of international solidarity which motivated development assistance. The contributions of States would demonstrate the importance which they attached to the Programmes and Funds of the United Nations system and their key role in development, and show that the international community was fully responsive to current needs and future challenges for the social and economic progress of an increasingly interdependent world.

21. The 1980 Pledging Conference was governed by the rules of procedure contained in document A/33/580; the agenda was to be found in rule 9.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(a) PRESIDENT

22. The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT said that he understood that informal consultations among delegations had led to a general agreement to elect Mr. Porfirio Muñoz Ledo, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, as President of the Conference.

23. If there was no objection, he would take it that the participants wished, as at past pledging conferences, to proceed with the election on the basis of a consensus reached among delegations, thus dispensing with the procedure of formal balloting.

24. Mr. Muñoz Ledo (Mexico) was elected President by acclamation.

25. Mr. Muñoz Ledo (Mexico) took the Chair.

26. The PRESIDENT said that his country attached great importance to the system of development assistance, which was an institutional dimension of international economic co-operation and a reflection of the desire for change in the international economic order. Making contributions on a predictable, assured and continuous basis made it possible to give effect to the principle of equity in meeting the needs of the developing countries, particularly in the social sphere. It was also a sign of the commitment of States to the work of the United Nations and enabled its various Funds to plan their activities and implement their projects, thereby giving concrete expression to the principle of international solidarity on a daily basis in every area of the world.

(b) VICE-PRESIDENTS

27. The PRESIDENT said he understood that there was general agreement on the election of Mr. Sarre (Senegal), Mr. Domokos (Hungary), Mr. Ghikas (Greece) and Mr. El-Jeaan (Kuwait) as Vice-Presidents of the Conference.

28. Mr. Sarre (Senegal), Mr. Domokos (Hungary), Mr. Ghikas (Greece) and Mr. El-Jeaan (Kuwait) were elected Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

STATEMENTS REGARDING PLEDGES

(a) ORAL STATEMENTS

29. Mr. GRANT (Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund) said that on 26 September 1980 he had informed the Second Committee of the General Assembly of the anticipated establishment of a Gulf Arab Special Foundation for United Nations Social Development Activities as a result of the efforts of the Special Envoy of UNICEF, Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz al Saud of Saudi Arabia. He had been informed only the day before that the Gulf Arab States had given their formal endorsement to the proposal and that specific details, including initial funding levels, would be communicated later in November.

30. The representative of GUYANA said his Government pledged $G 13,440 to UNICEF, $G 1,000 to UNFPA, $G 1,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, $G 3,000 to UNIDF, $G 8,000 to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development and $G 558,120 to UNDP, which included the programme cost element. Despite the limitations faced by his Government as a result of financial stringency, its 1981 contribution to UNDP was more than 50 per cent higher than its contribution for the previous year. That increase was tangible proof of the importance his Government attached to the development activities of the United Nations and its efforts to meet the target of a general increase of 14 per cent in contributions to UNDP.

31. The representative of HAITI said that his Government would contribute $US 500 to UNICEF, $US 1,000 to UNFPA and $US 500 to UNHHSF and that it would announce the amount of its contributions to other Funds at a future date.

32. The representative of the HOLY SEE pledged contributions of $US 2,000 to UNDP and $US 1,000 to UNICEF. The Holy See intended its contribution to UNICEF to be used for the education of children, since it had reservations with regard to certain of the Fund's family planning programmes. In that connexion, the emphasis placed in recent United Nations documents on the essential role of the family in the balanced development of children should be reflected to a greater extent in the various programmes of the Organization.

33. The representative of HONDURAS said that his Government had not yet determined the amount it would contribute to UNICEF, but that, in any event, its contribution would not be less than in 1980. He pledged 53,000 lempiras, or the equivalent of $US 26,000, to UNDP, which represented an increase over his country's 1980 contribution, despite the economic difficulties it was facing. In addition, local costs for UNDP projects would amount to L60,000. He also pledged L20,000 to UNFPA and L2,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. His Government's contribution to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development would be announced at a later stage.

34. The representative of HUNGARY announced a contribution of 10.3 million forints to UNDP in 1981. If necessary, 10 per cent of that amount could be used by UNDP in convertible currency for the purpose of facilitating the utilization of the forint portion of the contribution, mainly for the financing of travel costs. In addition to its voluntary contribution, Hungary would in 1981 transfer to UNDP in national currency the amounts previously known as "assessed programme costs". That pledge represented an increase of more than 14 per cent over Hungary's 1980 contribution and reflected his Government's recognition of the useful work carried out under UNDP auspices. Hungary would contribute Ft 1.5 million to UNIDF; as in the case of UNDP, 10 per cent could be used in convertible currencies for the purpose of promoting the utilization of the forint portion of the contribution. He pledged contributions of Ft 500,000 to UNICEF, Ft 250,000 to UNFPA, Ft 100,000 to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Ft 500,000 to the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). His country would endeavour to continue its long-standing practice of making its contributions early in the year in order to promote sound financial planning of United Nations development activities.

35. The representative of ICELAND said that, subject to parliamentary approval, his Government would contribute 52,143,000 krónur to UNDP, 13,075,000 krónur to UNICEF, $US 2,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and $US 9,000 to the World Food Programme (WFP).

36. The representative of INDIA said that his country was an important partner of UNDP, both as a donor and as a recipient. He pledged 63 million rupees, the equivalent of $US 8 million, in non-convertible currency, to UNDP. That amount was 5 per cent higher than the previous year's contribution. India would also contribute $US 1 million to UNIDF, 80 per cent of which would be in convertible currency; Rs 15 million to UNICEF - an increase of more than 15 per cent over the previous year's pledge; Rs 2.5 million to UNFPA; $US 15,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, an amount 50 per cent higher than its contribution for 1980; $US 5,000 in convertible currency, to the United Nations

(The representative of India)

Volunteers Programme; and $US 100,000 each year for 1980 and 1981 to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, 30 per cent of which would be paid in convertible currency. His Government was actively considering its contribution to UNHHSF and would announce its decision shortly.

37. The representative of INDONESIA said that, as a reaffirmaton of his Government's commitment to the noble goal of international development, it would contribute $US 250,000 to UNICEF, $US 1,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, and $US 1,000 to INSTRAW, subject to parliamentary approval. His Government was not in a position to announce its contribution to the remaining funds, but would undoubtedly continue to support most if not all of those to which it had previously contributed. The exact amounts of its contributions would be communicated to the Secretary-General as soon as possible.

38. The representative of IRAQ announced contributions of 150,000 dinars to UNDP, ID 36,000 to UNICEF, ID 22,500 to UNEP, ID 3,000 to UNHHSF, ID 4,452 to UNFPA, $US 300,000 to UNIDF, ID 4,000 to UNCDF and ID 73,000 to regional programmes.

39. The representative of IRELAND said that for reasons of budgetary procedure his Government was not yet in a position to announce its contribution; it would inform the Secretary-General in due course of the amount of its pledges.

40. The representative of ISRAEL said that, because of economic difficulties and serious budgetary constraints, his Government was unable to increase its pledges over the amounts contributed in 1980. Accordingly, subject to final government approval, Israel would contribute 450,000 shekels, fully convertible, to UNDP, $US 45,000 to UNICEF and $US 3,000 to UNITAR.

41. The representative of ITALY announced that his country's contribution to UNDP would be increased from its 1980 level of 13 billion lire to 21 billion lire, or approximately $US 23.3 million at current exchange rates. Italy's contribution to UNICEF, which had been Lit 2.5 billion for 1980, would be almost trebled, to Lit 6 billion. In addition, his country intended to contribute to the special project for assistance to refugee mothers and children from Afghanistan. It would also contribute Lit 2 billion to UNCDF, and a further Lit 2 billion to UNIDF.

42. He also announced a substantially increased contribution to UNFPA of Lit 1 billion and a grant to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women of Lit 150 million. All the sums pledged were fully convertible and subject to parliamentary approval.

43. In conclusion, he drew attention to the fact that Italy was already a major contributor to the interim fund for science and technology for development, to which it had pledged Lit 8 billion, and said that it expected to increase its grant to WFP significantly.

44. The representative of the IVORY COAST said that his delegation could not announce any contributions before his Government approved the annual budget. The Secretariat would be notified of his country's contributions in due course.

45. The representative of JAMAICA announced contributions of $US 67,978 to UNDP, $US 3,000 to UNCDF and $US 4,000 to UNIDF. Jamaica was also considering contributions to other programmes and funds, of which the Secretariat would be notified in the near future.

46. The representative of JORDAN said that his country had already pledged $US 10,000 to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development and $US 60,000 to WFP, representing an increase of 33 per cent over two years. Jordan would continue to support United Nations operational activities for development, and UNDP, UNICEF and UNIDF in particular. Other contributions would be given due consideration during the final review of the Jordanian budget.

47. The representative of KENYA said that, despite its limited resources, his country would maintain its contributions to United Nations operational activities for development at their current level and increase them wherever possible. The exact amounts to be contributed would be communicated to the Secretariat in due course. He wished to point out that the Kenyan currency was fully convertible.

48. The representative of KUWAIT announced contributions of $US 570,000 to UNDP, $US 100,000 to UNICEF and $US 50,000 to UNIDF, all in fully convertible currency. The Secretariat would be notified later of other pledges.

49. The representative of the LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC said that, despite serious economic difficulties following two unprecedented natural disasters in 1977 and 1978, his country had increased its contribution to UNDP for 1980 by 14 per cent, to $US 19,660. Its contribution for 1981 would be the same, namely, the equivalent of $US 19,660 in national currency, and its contributions to UNFPA, UNIDF and UNICEF would remain at their 1980 levels of $500, $1,500 and $5,000, respectively. He also announced contributions of $1,500 for UNCDF and $1,000 for the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries, to which his Government attached particular importance.

50. The representative of LEBANON announced contributions of $US 340,000 to UNDP and $US 25,000 to UNICEF. The Secretariat would be notified later of other contributions.

51. The representative of the LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA announced contributions of $US 1,150,000 to UNDP; $US 75,000 to UNICEF; $US 20,000 to UNFPA; $US 85,000 to UNIDF; and $US 25,000 to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). Other contributions by his country would be announced at a later stage.

52. The representative of LUXEMBOURG announced that, subject to parliamentary approval, his country would contribute 3,735,000 Luxembourg francs to UNDP; F850,000 to UNICEF; F265,000 to UNFPA; and F290,000 to UNIDF, all amounts being fully convertible.

53. The representative of MADAGASCAR announced contributions of 500,000 Malagasy francs to UNHCR; fmG million to UNICEF; fmG 500,000 to UNHHSF; fmG 500,000 to the trust fund of UNDRO; $US 400 to UNFPA; and fmG 2 million to WFP. Madagascar would also make a contribution to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, in an amount to be determined at a later stage.

54. Mr. Sarre (Senegal) took the Chair.

55. The representative of MALAYSIA announced a contribution of $US 340,000 to UNDP. His country would also contribute $US 78,400 to UNICEF, $US 20,000 to UNIDF, $US 10,000 to UNFPA, $US 2,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, and $US 10,000 to UNEP. All contributions would be made in fully convertible currencies.

56. The representative of MALDIVES said that, in spite of economic difficulties resulting from inflation and the high cost of commodities on the world market, his country had found it appropriate to increase its contributions to operational activities for development by some 20 per cent as a sign of its appreciation for the assistance received. It would therefore contribute $US 1,800 to UNDP, together with the equivalent of a further $US 15,000 in non-convertible local currency for the maintenance of the UNDP office in Maldives. It would also contribute $US 3,000 to UNICEF, $US 600 to UNCDF and $US 871 to UNFPA.

57. The representative of MAURITANIA expressed satisfaction at the fact that the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities was covered by the pledging conference for the first time: it was to be hoped that the Fund would attract generous contributions. Subject to his Government's approval, he announced contributions of $US 4,000 to UNDP, $US 4,000 to UNFPA and $US 2,000 to UNICEF.

58. The representative of MEXICO announced contributions, subject to approval by the Mexican authorities concerned, of $US 1,673,809.52 to UNDP; $US 14,372.29 to UNIDF; $US 286,753.25 to UNICEF; $US 5,757.58 to INSTRAW; and $US 11,471.86 to UNFPA. He drew attention to the fact that Mexico's contributions to UNIDF, UNICEF, the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women and UNFPA had all increased by more than the 14 per cent, which it had set itself as a target, while its contribution to UNDP had risen by more than 40 per cent.

59. Mexico's contributions to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development and UNCDF would be announced in due course; Mexico was aware that all the countries that had taken part in the Vienna Conference on Science and Technology for Development must make a special effort to bring the resources of the Interim Fund up to the targeted level of $250 million for the biennium 1980-1981. In that connexion, it enthusiastically endorsed the efforts of a representative group of developing countries that would shortly be initiating high-level contacts with potential donor countries so as to stress the importance they attached to science and technology, which could greatly enhance international co-operation.

60. The representative of MONACO announced, subject to parliamentary approval of the Monegasque budget, contributions of 22,000 francs to UNDP and 20,000 francs to UNICEF.

61. The representative of MONGOLIA announced contributions of 80,000 tughriks - the approximate equivalent of $US 20,000 - to UNDP; 7,000 tughriks to UNIDF; the equivalent in tughriks of $US 3,500 to UNICEF; and $US 500 to UNFPA as a first token of his country's support for the activities of that Fund. In addition, Mongolia would contribute the equivalent of $US 160,000 to UNDP as its share of programme costs. It attached particular importance to operational activities falling under the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, and was looking forward to further co-operation with that Fund.

62. The representative of MOROCCO announced contributions of 1,595,000 dirhams to UNDP; $US 5,000 to the Special Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Volunteers Programme; $US 5,000 to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development; and DH 50,627 to UNIDF. Moreover, Morocco would contribute $US 100,000 to UNICEF - $65,000 for the maintenance of the Paris office and $35,000 for the maintenance of the office in Algeria; $US 64,000 to UNFPA; and $US 50,000 to WFP. Financial difficulties had prevented his country from increasing its contributions, but it had maintained them at their previous levels as a sign of its confidence in the programmes and funds concerned. It hoped, with parliamentary approval, to increase its contribution to UNDP by 10 per cent. Finally, he expressed his gratitude to the Gulf States for the welcome establishment of the Special Foundation, announced earlier in the meeting by the Executive Director of UNICEF.

63. The representative of the NETHERLANDS said that his Government viewed the financing of United Nations development activities as the collective responsibility of all Member States and considered that those activities should be financed increasingly from the regular budget of the United Nations. Meanwhile, more equitable participation on a voluntary basis was needed. The Netherlands alone had accounted for some 10 per cent of all contributions to UNDP in 1980 and some 39 per cent of UNCDF resources up to the end of 1980. His Government was therefore pleased that the Second Committee had recently adopted a draft resolution calling for an increase in voluntary contributions to the system's operational activities. The heads of the funds and programmes concerned should continue their efforts to attract new donors.

64. To allow the system to operate with maximum efficiency, some means of financing the system on a multiyear basis must be found. While it was each Government's exclusive prerogative to decide how to attain that objective within its national legal constraints, Governments were masters of their own actions and legal constraints could be adjusted.

65. While his delegation fully respected the right of every State to decide on the currency or currencies in which it made its contributions, donor countries and organizations within the system must also respect recipient countries' prerogative to decide how to use the funds allotted to them. It was unfair to blame the administrators of programmes if large amounts of unusable currency were left unspent: the responsibility lay squarely with the donor countries.

(The representative of the Netherlands)

66. The Netherlands favoured multiyear planning, and would attempt to introduce it once it had solved some of the budgetary difficulties that arose in that regard.

67. The Netherlands pledges showed little or no increase over those for the previous year, partly because the Government believed it was already doing its share in the financing of operational activities, and partly because the country's GNP had grown hardly at all over the past year.

68. He announced contributions, subject to parliamentary approval, of 153 million guilders (approximately $US 74 million) to UNDP; f. 18.5 million to UNCDF; f. 15.5 million to UNICEF; f. 33 million to UNFPA; f. 300,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women; f. 600,000 to UNHHSF; and f. 200,000 to the United Nations Volunteers Programme.

69. In conclusion, he recalled that, at the eleventh special session of the General Assembly the Netherlands had announced a special contribution of f. 5 million to UNDP, and said that his Government would consider how much it could channel to the United Nations Trust Fund for Sudano-Sahelian Activities in 1981.

70. The representative of NEW ZEALAND said that it was his Government's hope at least to maintain the 1980 level of contributions. At the current stage of its budgetary cycle it was not in a position to announce all its pledges for 1981. However, in the belief that early payment would be of assistance, it had already disbursed its contribution of $NZ 1.25 million to UNDP and, in addition, as announced at the World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women, it would contribute a further $NZ 10,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the Decade.

71. The representative of NIGERIA announced that his Government would contribute 500,000 nairas to UNDP, or the equivalent of $US 900,000. Its contributions for other activities would be made known once the necessary parliamentary approval had been given.

72. The representative of NORWAY said that, in the light of his Government's strong view that the financing of United Nations operational activities for development should take place on a secure, predictable and long-term basis, it would pledge its contributions for 1981 and indicate its planned contributions for 1982 and 1983. Subject to parliamentary approval, his country's ODA would be calculated on the basis of 1 per cent of GNP. He therefore announced a contribution of Nkr 283 million, or approximately $US 57.7 million, to UNDP for 1981, and indicated that his Government's contributions to the Programme for 1982 and 1983 would be of the order of Nkr 300 million and Nkr 315 million. Its contribution to UNCDF for 1981 would total Nkr 17 million, the indicative figures for 1982 and 1983 being Nkr 18 million and Nkr 19 million, respectively. It would contribute Nkr 70 million to UNICEF for 1981, plus a further Nkr 17.5 million for "noted" projects. The indicative figures for 1982 and 1983 were Nkr 75 million and Nkr 80 million respectively. He expressed his delegation's appreciation to the Gulf Arab States for approving the establishment of the Special Foundation announced by the Executive Director of UNICEF.

(The representative of Norway)

73. His country's contribution to UNFPA for 1981 would be Nkr 70 million, plus a further Nkr 9 million for "noted" projects. The indicative figures for 1982 and 1983 would be Nkr 75 million and Nkr 80 million respectively.

74. The sum of Nkr 10 million already pledged for the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development would be paid to the Fund in 1981. His Government's 1981 contribution to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women would be Nkr 1.5 million, and it intended to contribute the same amount annually for the remainder of the Decade up to and including 1985.

75. Finally, he announced that his Government had pledged to contribute Nkr 100 million to WFP for 1981, and had indicated a contribution of Nkr 105 million for 1982. Total contributions from his country to United Nations operational activities for development for 1981 would amount to $US 117.6 million, representing a per capita contribution of $US 29.40.

76. The representative of OMAN announced contributions by his Government of $US 75,000 to UNDP, $US 50,000 to UNICEF, $US 12,000 to UNIDF, $US 10,000 to UNITAR, $US 10,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, and $US 10,000 to UNFPA.

77. The representative of PAKISTAN said that, despite Pakistan's limited resources and difficult economic circumstances, his Government had decided to increase its voluntary contributions to UNDP by 15 per cent to a total of 15,541,800 Pakistan rupees. Its contribution to UNFPA would be increased by 10 per cent to PRs 275,000. The substantial increases in its contributions were indicative not only of its appreciation for the assistance that those bodies were providing to its own development, but also of its commitment to the attainment of the targets set by the relevant intergovernmental bodies. It hoped that developed donor countries would also live up to the commitments they had undertaken, in particular with respect to voluntary contributions to UNDP.

78. He also announced a contribution of PRs 952,000 to UNCDF. He pledged PRs 747,500 to UNICEF, of which PRs 180,000 would be paid in foreign exchange; in addition, the sum of PRs 830,000 had been earmarked for administrative expenses in Pakistan. His delegation welcomed the announcement of the establishment of the Gulf Arab Special Foundation for United Nations Social Development Activities.

79. His Government would further contribute $US 5,000 to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), as well as PRs 100,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, PRs 50,000 to INSTRAW and PRs 100,000 to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development. Information regarding other contributions would be communicated to the Secretariat in due course.

80. The representative of PANAMA announced his Government's contributions of 1,000 balboas to UNIDF, B1,000 to UNFPA, B22,000 to UNICEF, B500 to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and B120,000 to UNDP. His Government's contribution to the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration would be B1,000. Owing to the economic straits in which it found itself as a result of inflation, it could not make any pledge for any other programme at the current stage, although it would try to maintain its contributions at the 1980 level, if possible.

81. Mr. Muñoz Ledo (Mexico) resumed the Chair.

82. The representative of PAPUA NEW GUINEA announced his Government's pledge of 18,000 kinas (approximately $US 27,600) to UNDP, $US 6,000 to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and 1,000 kinas to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. In addition, it would contribute $US 140,000 towards UNDP programme costs. Its other contributions would be determined at a later stage and communicated to the Secretariat.

83. The representative of PARAGUAY announced that his Government would contribute to $US 6,000 to UNIDF, $US 7,000 to UNICEF, $US 15,000 to UNFPA and $US 20,000 to UNDP.

84. The representative of PERU said that, despite Peru's economic difficulties, his Government would make a contribution to UNDP in an amount which would be communicated later, but which would be aimed at meeting the target of a 14 per cent increase. It would likewise make a contribution to the UNIDF and to UNFPA. It would also make a contribution to assist the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development to reach its target. He was convinced that his Government would succeed in overcoming its existing financial constraints and would therefore be able to contribute to other development programmes.

85. The representative of the PHILIPPINES announced a contribution of $US 413,000 to UNICEF, $US 22,500 to UNIDF, $US 5,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, and $US 2,500 to the United Nations Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries. Its contributions to other funds and programmes would be announced at a later date.

86. The representative of POLAND said that, as an indication of its continued support for the operational activities undertaken by the United Nations system, and in recognition of the fact that UNDP was the principal instrument of multilateral technical co-operation within that system, his Government had decided to increase its voluntary contribution by 14 per cent to an amount of $44,850,000 zlotys. In addition, it would contribute an amount of Zł 3.9 million to programme costs.

87. He further announced a contribution of Zł 6,945,000 to UNICEF. Recognizing the specific situation of UNIDO which was in the process of becoming a specialized agency, it had decided to increase its voluntary contribution to UNIDF by 40 per cent, making a total of Zł 3.5 million.

88. The representative of PORTUGAL said that, despite being a small State which was suffering from the world economic crisis, his country had decided to increase its contribution to UNICEF and to UNFPA by 50 per cent and its contribution to UNIDF by 25 per cent, making a total of $US 15,000 for each. In the light of the consultations with UNDP which had taken place recently in Lisbon, a pledge to the Programme would be announced at a later stage.

89. The representative of QATAR said that, as an expression of its support for the important role being played by United Nations agencies in development activities, his Government had decided to pledge a sum of $US 200,000 to UNDP, a further $US 200,000 to UNICEF, a sum of $US 25,000 to UNIDF, the sum of $US 10,000 each to UNFPA and to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and a sum of $US 5,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

90. The representative of the REPUBLIC OF KOREA announced a contribution of $US 838,000 to UNDP, of which $US 550,000 represented the voluntary contribution and the remainder a contribution to programme costs. He said that his Government would contribute $US 30,000 to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development and also make all possible efforts to co-operate in the field of science and technology with other developing countries on a bilateral or regional basis. It would contribute $US 30,000 to UNIDF, representating an increase of 50 per cent over the previous year. In addition, it intended to contribute $US 128,000 to UNICEF, $US 41,000 to UNFPA, and $US 20,000 to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). All those pledges were subject to parliamentary approval.

91. The representative of ROMANIA said that, in the spirit of co-operation which already existed between his country and UNDP, his Government intended to make a voluntary contribution of 7.2 million lei, representing a 20 per cent increase over its previous contribution. It would also contribute 60,000 lei to UNFPA and 550,000 lei to UNICEF. A contribution to UNIDF was under active consideration and would be announced at a later stage.

92. The representative of SAMOA said that his Government intended to contribute to UNDP and to other Funds, but discussion of the exact amount had not yet been completed. The Secretariat would be informed of Samoa's contributions at a later stage.

93. The representative of SAUDI ARABIA announced that his Government would contribute $US 1 million to UNIDF, $US 2.5 million to UNDP and $US 10,000 to UNITAR. Its contribution to UNICEF would be announced at a later date.

94. The representative of SENEGAL announced that his Government would contribute $US 160,000 to UNDP, $US 60,820 to UNCDF, $US 40,000 to UNFPA, $US 5,000 to the Special Fund for Land-locked Developing Countries, $US 2,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women, $US 3,000 to the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and $US 2,000 to UNIDF.

95. The representative of SEYCHELLES said that her country was subject to many economic constraints but, unfortunately, aid had not been forthcoming. Despite that, it would contribute $US 1,000 to UNICEF, $US 1,000 to UNDP and $US 1,000 to UNFPA.

96. The representative of SIERRA LEONE announced that his Government would contribute $US 5,000 to UNIDF. A contribution in the same amount had already been made to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development. The Secretariat would be informed of any other contributions as soon as possible. In the meantime, he renewed his Government's commitment to and support for the development activities of the United Nations system, from which it had benefited enormously over the years.

97. The representative of SPAIN expressed support for the statement made by the representative of the Netherlands, especially with respect to the need for contributions to be made by all countries that were in a position to do so and to be provided in convertible currency. There were many countries, including his own, whose currency was not freely convertible. However, his Government made the necessary effort to furnish its contributions in convertible currency. Subject to parliamentary approval it would contribute $US 1,901,000 to UNDP, representing a 14 per cent increase over its previous contribution; $US 228,000 to UNICEF, a 20 per cent increase; and the sum of $US 60,000 each to UNFPA and to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women.

98. The representative of SRI LANKA said that the international community had an obligation to provide adequate resources to meet the development needs of the developing countries. His country had always given whatever support it could to United Nations programmes. It intended to contribute $US 600,000, payable in local currency, to UNDP; $US 7,500, payable in local currency, to UNFPA: $US 3,000 to UNIDF; $US 2,000 to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat); and 200,000 Sri Lanka rupees to UNICEF. The Government was considering increasing its contribution to UNICEF in light of the extension of the UNICEF programme in his country. On behalf of his Government, he expressed sincere thanks for all the assistance programmes from which Sri Lanka had benefited.

99. The representative of the SUDAN announced that his Government would contribute $US 200,000 to UNDP, $US 25,000 to UNFPA, $US 5,000 to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, $US 35,000 to UNICEF, $US 10,000 to UNIDF, and $US 1,500 to UNEP. In addition, it would make grains available to WFP to the value of 10,000 Sudanese pounds.

100. It warmly welcomed the announcement by the Executive Director of UNICEF with regard to the establishment of the Gulf Arab Special Foundation. With respect to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development, it hoped that the necessary resources would be mobilized to enable the Fund successfully and effectively to play its role in contributing to the development of the developing countries.

101. The representative of SURINAME said that his Government attached particular importance to the work of UNDP, which was involved in the development process in his country. Despite its budgetary problems, Suriname would increase its contribution to UNDP by more than 14 per cent, to an amount of $US 82,500. It would also contribute $US 2,500 to UNFPA and $US 2,000 to UNIDF.

102. The representative of SWAZILAND announced contributions of 6,500 emalangeni to UNICEF, 7,500 emalangeni to UNDP and a further 7,500 emalangeni to help meet the expenses of the local UNDP office. Instructions were awaited from his Government as to when those payments would be scheduled.

103. The representative of SWEDEN said that, in its belief that assistance should be made available to the developing countries on a continuous, assured and more predictable basis, long-term planning being matched by multiyear commitments from donors, her Government had decided to make three-year pledges to UNDP, UNCDF, UNFPA and UNICEF, subject to parliamentary approval. Consequently, it would contribute 335 million kronor to UNDP for 1981 and SKr 690 million for the following two years together, making a total of almost a quarter of a billion United States dollars. In addition, it pledged a firm minimum contribution to UNDP for the least developed countries amounting to SKr 35 million for 1981, and SKr 17 million for 1982 and 1983. Contributions in excess of the minimum might be considered in some cases on condition that UNDP activity warranted such increases, and that other donors showed a will to bear their appropriate share of the Programme's financing. Her country was currently contributing more than 12 per cent of total UNDP resources.

104. Its contribution to UNCDF represented 28 per cent of that Fund's resources. It was hoped that new donors would join, and that others would give more substantial contributions. Her Government's contribution would be SKr 30 million per year for 1981, 1982 and 1983 - a total of approximately $US 20 million. Its contribution to UNFPA for the three-year period 1981-1983 would amount to SKr 45 million per annum, or a total of some $US 30 million.

105. Her Government's contribution to UNICEF for the three-year period 1981-1983 would amount to SKr 130 million per year, or a total of some $US 90 million. She expressed appreciation to the Gulf Arab States for the decision to set up the Foundation mentioned by the Executive Director.

106. Her country's share of total contributions to all those operational activities was exceptionally high; it hoped that the situation would change through increased contributions from other donors.

107. In support of the technical assistance programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), her Government would again make a contribution of SKr 1 million. Through the Swedish International Development Authority, which had agreed on a programme of co-operation with UNIDO, perhaps amounting to as much as SKr 5 million, special-purpose assistance would be provided for training and seminars, appropriate technology, and associated experts.

(The representative of Sweden)

108. She confirmed that her Government would make an additional contribution of $US 200,000 to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women; that amount was payable in two instalments, in 1981 and 1982.

109. Her Government had pledged to contribute $US 5 million to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development. Given the Fund's very difficult financial situation, it urged all potential donor countries that had expressed support for the Fund at the Vienna Conference and in the General Assembly to translate that support into pledges as soon as possible.

110. The representative of SWITZERLAND said that his Government's contributions were evidence of the importance it attached to United Nations development activities. He took the opportunity to reiterate the confidence of his authorities in the various bodies and agencies of the system responsible for co-operation, and to pay tribute to the competence and devotion of their staff. Subject to parliamentary approval of further appropriations for development co-operation, his Government proposed to contribute 30.2 million Swiss francs, or approximately $US 17.35 million to UNDP, SwF 3 million to UNFPA, SwF 3.5 million to UNCDF, and SwF 4 million to the UNDP Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries. Favourable consideration was also being given to making a contribution to the UNDP energy fund.

111. In addition, SwF 80,000 would be contributed to the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women. A general contribution of SwF 6.75 million would be made to UNICEF, together with special contributions up to a total of SwF 9.25 million. A contribution of $US 2 million had already been pledged to the Interim Fund for Science and Technology for Development and, as already indicated, his Government was ready to make a contribution to match 2 per cent of the total voluntary contributions made to the Interim Fund for the biennium 1980-1981. Finally, an amount of SwF 62,000 would be made available for UNITAR.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.